

Watch/Warning/Advisory (WWA) - Tropical Prediction Center (TPC)
Meeting Minutes - November 18, 2002

1. Purpose: High level design meeting to define the TPC/WFO communication process of injecting tropical cyclone watch/warning headline data into WFO text products, through the Watch, Warning, and Advisory (WWA) dissemination tool.

2. Attendees:

NWS HQ - Mark McInerney (OST23)

NCEP HQ - Mary DesJardins (NCO/CDB)
Steve Schotz (NCO/CDB)

TPC - Michelle Mainelli (TPC)

3. New Business:

A. Using GEMPAK software developed by NCO/CDB, a forecaster at the TPC will create a Tropical Cyclone breakpoint file every time a watch/warning is issued, changed, or cancelled for both domestic and international locations.

Note: for the purpose of inserting headlines into the WFO text products...only the U.S. breakpoints will be addressed.

B. Once the breakpoint file is created, another GEMPAK program will be executed (either in the background or by a forecaster). This program will process the breakpoints into the proper UGZ zones for both the county zones and coastal water forecast zones for each WFO affected.

C. The following WFO products will need headlines:

Coastal Water Forecast (CWF)
Zone Forecast Product (ZFP)
Area Forecast Matrices (AFM)
Point Forecast Matrices (PFM)
State Forecast Product (SFP)
Hurricane Local Statement (HLS)
Marine Weather Statement (MWS)

Note: The summary of the 10/31/02 WWA meeting minutes included the Offshore Forecast (OFF). Michelle (TPC) advised that the OFF product is no longer a WFO product and is now issued by both the MPC and TPC. As a result, injecting headlines into the Offshore product is outside the scope of a WFO.

D. After conferring with the WFO, Miami office, it is necessary to include both watches and warnings for a particular zone. Originally it was thought that the warning would supercede a watch, but in some instances both a watch and warning may be deemed necessary.

E. A timeliness issue was addressed. After conferring with the WFO, Miami office, WFO's are allowed to update their products at any time. In most cases the issuance of a watch/warning from TPC will not coincide with the normal transmission times of the text products so an update of the product will be sent including the new information.

F. Five new PIL names will be needed for internal distribution only:

MIAWWBAT1
MIAWWBAT2
MIAWWBAT3
MIAWWBAT4
MIAWWBAT5

G. Since the method of including watches/watches from TPC will be followed in a similar manner as the method done with the SPC products, it is important to note the differences between the two center's products.

1. The TPC does not issue expiration times for their watch/warnings.
2. The SPC issues their watches for specific counties whereas TPC issues watches/warnings by points along the coastline. It was decided that if a breakpoint lies in any area of a county (even if it is a small portion), the entire county would be included in the watch/warning area.
3. NCEP/TPC will manage the breakpoint database and provide the WFO watch/warning information through UGC fields, translated from the breakpoint information. This will simplify the management of the breakpoint database to a centralized location, TPC.

H. The WFO's coastal water forecast zone areas will be included if any portion of the adjacent land area is included.

I. Coverage will only include Atlantic & Gulf of Mexico regions.

J. An example of the intended final product which will be sent to MDL is given below. Included in the proposed product will be to indicate whether a watch and/or warning is new, continued, or cancelled for a particular zone. Each type of watch/warning (Hurricane Watch, Hurricane Warning, Tropical Storm Watch, and Tropical Storm Warning) is separated into it's own grouping.

ZCZC MIAWWBAT(1-5) ALL -The (1-5) will correspond to the bin # of TC
TTAA00 KNHC DDHHMM
ALPHA WATCH/WARNING BREAKPOINTS
1100 AM EDT TUE OCT 22 2002

.HURRICANE ALPHA

. HURRICANE WARNINGS
/NEW...FL021-022-023-GA002-003-MZ001-002
/CON...FL019-020-024-025-GA001
/CAN...FL017-018-GA004
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.TROPICAL STORM WARNINGS
/NEW...FL016-017-018-GA004-005
/CON...FL014-015
/CAN...FL012-013
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.HURRICANE WATCH
/NEW...FL016-017-018-GA004
/CON...GA005
/CAN...
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.TROPICAL STORM WATCH
/NEW...GA006-007-008
/CON...
/CAN...FL012-013
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ATTN...WFO...MLB...JAX...CHS

K. The necessary TPC/WWA software to accommodate this functionality is intended to be operational by the 2004 Hurricane season. (WWA development - OB4)

4. Action Items:

A. Mark McNerney: will coordinate with OS to obtain the necessary PIL and WMO headers for the new breakpoint products.